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LOUIS HOMMEL

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In the Phrenlogical Journal we find a good biography of William B. Astor, in which the following characteristic stories are

TWO "ASTOR HOUSES,"

It was about twenty four years ago that John Jacob Astor was buried in the vault of St. Thomas' church. In his will, a most claborate legal document, William B. was indicated as the principal legatee. His patrimonial inheritance, with what he already possessed, made him the richest man on this continent. The first thing he did after coming into possession of this estate was to carry out the bequests of his father. he sent one of his own sons to Waldorf, in Germany, where his father was born, to superintend personally the disposition of certain funds bequeathed for the establishment of a charitable institution. A building was erected and \$43,000 invested for its permanent maintainance. The aged and infirm, irrespective of color or religious belief, orphan children from the ages of six to fitteen, blind and deaf, and dumb persons, and homeless infants are there provided with a comfortable home. The name of the institution is the Astor House and is now in a most flourishing condition.

"I take great pride in the Astor House of New York," Mr. Astor has been heard to say, when referring to this institution, "but a greater pride in the Astor House of Waldorf. The massive granite blocks and pillars of the former may crumble and fall to the ground, or its columns and corridors be-come choked with weeds, but the latter will continue in existence while the town of Waldorf exists and there are any poor peo-

AN OLD STORY SET RIGHT.

To Fitz Greene Halleck, the well-known poet, and who had been the friend and sect retary of his father, he said, "My father

has done you great injustice."
"In what respect?" asked the poet.
"Leaving you only \$200 as an annuity."
"He paid me for all the services render. ed him, and I had no additional claim upon

"I think you have claims or the estate," pursued Mr. Astor, "and as a mark of appreciation I have raised the annuity to

"Thank you, thank you," speke up this noble and gifted son of song, and he could say no more. The closing years of his be-autiful but sad life were by this act of time ly liberality lifted above care and his pathway to the grave strewn with pleasant

To a sea captain who had been in his fa' ther's service for many years, and who had conducted himself with rare fidelity on more than one occasion of embarrassment and imminent loss, he said: "You saved a large amount of property

in China for my father.' "Yes; your father's agent died, the prop erty was imperiled on this account, and I

saved it and turned over to your father \$700,000. "And he never paid you anything?"

"Not a dollar."
"I'll pay you," and he filled out a check for \$25,000 and gave it to the captain. We may say, in reply to the question which has occurred doubt ess to the reader,

"How much is he worth?" that we do not precisely know; and it is said that Mr. As tor himself would be somewhat at a loss to answer it with exactness, but some sanguine individuals estimate it at \$75,000,000, and it increases rapidly every year with the ad vance in New York real estate. As to his income. we are told that it exceeds that of the emperor of Germany. The same, how ever, may be said of Stewart and Vanderbilt.

KANSAS ITEMS.

[From Clay Center. (Kuns.) Independent.

The mayor of Lawrence gets \$5000 a year. Nobody has been drunk in Iola for three

Leavenworth wants to pack 50,000 hogs

Labette county is to have 100 acres of cot-

ton next season. Kansas, during the year, has expended \$1,000,000 on school houses.

The A. T. & S. railroad land will ag-

gregate nearly 4,000,000 acres. It costs Leavenworth \$1841 per year for

each pupil attending her schools. During the year thirty additions have been

made to the population of the ponitentiary Total, 383. Jewell county, where the wild bison pranc-

d in all freedom two years ago is now the bode of 6000 stardy pioneers.

A Topeka justice made a man pay 30 dollars for this sing a married woman twice, because her kusband did nt like it. Orage Mission expects 300 more Irish

direct from the Green Isle. As it already has the small pox, they will feel quite at

Paris pickpockets have dogs with them and when the dog grabs the man by the leg the thief gets into his pocket.

The joker of the Titusville Press rubbed his eyes against an 'oil man's first the other day, and has had sleepless nights ever since.

The Rev. Talmage can change his ideas Paymaster. her wickedness. His Tabernacie burned Paymester. down the other day.

ANECDOTES OF WM. B. ASTOR. GOLD HUNTING IN COLUMBIA.

CALIFORNIA IN SOUTH AMERICA, -ADVEN-TURERS IN SEARCH OF GOLD, -DISCOVER-

IES OF NEW PLACER MINES. Some of our readers may remember that in 1866 a number of Californians were lured to Barbacoas, on the western coast of Columbia, by reports of the existence there of rich placer mines, which could be cheaply worked with native labor. The mines were there, sure enough, formed by the washing of the Cordillera streams for ages, but the owners asked for one half the product, the climate was sickly, and our adventurers, generally without means, finally abandoned the country in disgust. One of the few who remained was Dr. James Weaver, an old Californian, who had been a pioneer miner and ditch builder in Nevada and Yuma counties, where a mining canal, still bears his name, and who will be widely remembered when we recall his name, both in this State and Nevada. Weaver left the coast, pushed into the interior of the province of Cauca, which is in the South-western extremity of Columbia, and prospected high up in one of the Andean ridges, where he had to cut a trail and made his way with great hardship. On the banks of the river Aguarica, whose name indicates its aurifer-ous richness, he found gold wherever he washed the gravel. After many vicissitudes he established himself in this lonely country in a hat with a few Indians. But his Indians deserted him, and he was obliged to quit Aguarica. At Yaculo, however, in another part of Cauca, 30 miles from Bar-bacoas, he found extensive placer deposits, similar to the hydraulic mines of California, where one Pablo Rienel, with men, women and children, Indian and Negro, was taking out considerable gold by means of ground sluicing, water being plentiful for the purpose, and rain falling often enough the purpose, and rain inting often enough to keep the ground constantly in good con-dition for washing. Weaver saw Kienel's people wash up 40 pounds of gold, weighed with the steel-yards at 16 ounces to the pound. He found the mining county, consisting of high gravel ridges divided by many ravines and streams, to be very extensive and admirably adapted for hydraulic operations. Rienel owned thirty square eagues, which he offered to sell for \$200, -000-and all of it, says Weaver, is regular mining ground. The Yaculo diggings are known to very few people, and Rienel is the only one who has tried to work them largely. The negro women make spending noney easily by washing in the ravines, The country is very sparely inhabited; the land, when owned, is held by title descended from the King of Spain. The laws allow one man a league of mining ground cant and unexplored. Dr. Weaver was so pleased with the Yaculo country that he has come to San Francisco to obtain the implements and machinery necessary to hydraulic mining, and means to return there to work some land he has secured. He says labor can be obtained for \$10 a month; that any kind of vegetables can be easily raised; that the climate is good, the people (mostly Spanish and Indians) are friendly, and ed-ibles of all kind very cheap. But he says it is no country for poor men, without mo-ney or implements, to work the ground systematically on a large scale, Americans would starve there. The Panema Star and Herald editorially endorses Weavers state ments concerning the gold regions of Co-

MICHIGAN ITEMS.

lumbia, which are important, outside of Cauca, and prints a long letter from him,

describing that interesting wild country and

his adventures-which smack of California

forty-nine experience. But as Weaver says.

it is certainly no country for poor men-

San Francisco Bulletin.

Colbys & Co's hardware store at Rock ford, were destroyed by fire.

James Dunn, of Genva, was killed by reight train at Livingston. George Bullard's "Enterprise" iron and cass foundry, of Jackson were laid into

Twenty two different incorporations of actual and contemplated railroads exist now

in the State. The boarding bouse of Joseph Valiere, of Bay City, burned down, leaving many boarders in their underglothing to take to the

430,000,000 feet of lumber where shipped from the State during the last year. It is reported that Oliver Everett, an old esident of Duplain Township, Clinton Coun- of 10,000 per year.

ty, was frozen to death during one of the cold nights of last week. At Hastings, Barry County, on the morning of the 26th inst., the thermometer went in possession of all his limbs. down to thirty eight degrees below zero. The Journal thinks it was cold.

Two boys of Ann Arbor, one fifteen and the other nine years of age got into a dif-ficulty about a girl and a kuife being called into use. Severe cutting ensued. No death;

St. Louis was the victim to the flames to St. Louis was the victim to the flames to the following amount: Snydam building, \$2,500; John West & Co., meat and tools, \$200; Shiffer & Sheffield, hardware, \$7000; Mrs. Branch, millinery \$400; F. Harrington, halldings, \$2,5000; H. Harrington, stock, \$3,500. Total \$15,000; insurance \$4,000. \$4,000.

John Alexander, a young man in the em ploy of Benjamin Wixson, thresher, while passing from the table to another part of the machine was seized with dizziness, being behind books. He has figured up a dozen pencils, and a now figuring as an inmate of the jai. and part of the leg, producing such injuries that he lived only three days.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGIS. TERED LETTERS.

Postmaster-General Creswell denies that he ever made any raling to the effect that postmasters are to be held responsible for the loss of registered letters, and insits that in no case will his department or any of its officials be held for such losses. We have never supposed that any such ruling had been made as the one which is denied, but it has often occurred to us to inquire why it should not be. Why should not the Post-office Department be liable for the loss of money or property intrusted to it for trans-porting? It demands an extra compensation for registering a letter, the contents of which for registering a letter, the contents of which are valuable, and requires from those officials in the department, to whom valuable lettere are intrusted, heavy bonds to secure the faithful performance of their duties. What is the price paid for, if not for the purpose of obtaining better security? Is it paid simply to cover the cost of so marking and distinguishing valuable letters that every the distinguishing valuable letters that every one through whose hands they pass may know that they are worth stealing, and that they may steal them with impunity? Under the present system with the Postmaster-General's ruling, this is all the registering amounts to.
And why are those who have charge of registered letters required to give bonds? The
property which passes through their hands is not that of the government but of individu-als. Should they lose it, mislay it or appropriate it, the government would lose no-thing, and could therefore recover nothing

on the bond, and the individual or individuals whose property or money had disappeared would be atterly temediless.

There seems to be no good reason why the practice of the Postoffice Department should not be remodeled in this regard. The evil is not so great as it was in the days before the money order system came into operation, but it is still very considerable. It is true that the government does not prohibit the sending of money by common carriers, who can be held responsible for its loss, but it has by its rates made competition practically impossible. Without knowing the precise obstacles which are claimed to stand in the way of a reform in this respect, it is not easy to suggest the remedy, but we cannot believe that there are any very serious obstacles. At all events, one thing is certain, the depart-nent ought either to give the senders of registered letters some return for their money or cease taking it. - Detroit Free Press.

OLD TIME AXIOMS. The following are from an old sgrap-book: An independent man is one who blacks his own boots, who can live without whisky and tobacco, who carns at least a penny a day more, and has gone back home to marry a Russian. more than he spends, and who can, upon pinch, shave himself with brown sop and cold water without a mirror. A great man is one who can lead his children to obey him when out of his sight. A hospitable man is never ashamed of his dinner when a friend unexpectedly drops in to dine with him. A sensible wife looks for her enjoyment at home—a silly one, abroad. A wise girl would win a lover by practising those virtues which secure admiration when personal charms have faded. A simple girl endeavors to recommend herself by the exihibition of frivolous accomplishments, and by a maw-kish sentiment which has as little to do with a true heart as has the gaudy dress she wears. A good girl always respects herself, and is thus sure to be respected by others. Apes remain apes though you clothe them

with velvet. We often pardon those who weary us, but we cannot pardon those whom we weary. AN One, -A blacksmith, in the aysterious regions known as the composing-room of the New York Times, has the following over his case. To hasten the time when he can be persuaded to retire from the butchery of respectable articles, he receives double com-

"I'm the slow, the beautiful slow, Setting less type than the rest, I know: Setting it dirtier-shoemakerstyle-But setting it steady and saving a pile,

Talking,

Botching. Crushing away, Picking up much fewer type every day.

The jailor at Cincinnati takes the prisoners out to saw wood, and yet sternly warns them

not to "cut sticks." The police of New York have to crack a Angell's car shop at Adrian, burned down gentleman or burgiar. They tell by the sound

Arthur Haliburton, son of the famous 'Sam Slick," has just been appointed As-

sistant Account-General in India, at a salary Railroad engineers are not always frac

The New York Mail says:-"We do no believe in the doctrine of total depravity, but are of the opinion that boys are hopelessly given to scientific experimenting. A youth in western Kentacky lately gave way to this properaity in church by inserting a package of revolver cartridges in the coal scuttle and waiting for the effect.—Presently, after the fire was replenished, the cartridges went off, and the minister and congregation hurriedly followed their example. Well, boys will be a core, you know. boys, you know,

The Saturday Night relates the case of a The Saturday Night relates the case of a Cincinnati firm who employed a new drummer and sent him out to solicitorders. They didn't hear from him for about six weeks, when he made his appearance. "Did you get any orders?" asked the boss, somewhat angrily. "Yes," said the newman, dejectedly. "one man gave me an order." What was it?" "He ordered me out of his store,"

A worthy farmer in Georgia, who was carried home on a letter the other day, solemn ly asserts that nothing but a twenty-tou hair fro anchor can hold a sorrel mule down to the grater. Omaha bankers meet, swear and pound learth after she has stepped into a yellow-

elippings.

In tents excitement-Panic in circus.

Tight Squieze is the name of a little town

The man who works with a "will"-The probate judge.

Thurlow Weed draws pension as a fifer i he war of 1812. Sergeant Bates is very properly called the

nternational Jackass. Neither iron, brick or stone make a fire

proof building. What will? Philadelphia pays four and a half million of interest on her public debt.

A female solon of the house of Rothschild about to marry a Christian Englishman.

The Pacific Slope"-The Quaker Peace Commissioners running from the Indians.

It is estimated that there are 1,377.000, 000 people in this world, basides a few Council Bluffs values a broken leg at fifteen

cents, or at least the city won't pay more The name of the marshal of Newport,

Kentucky, is Ribboltz, and his deputy is Woodsldes. A club of fifteen families in Pittsburgh pay doctor \$25 each per year to doctor then

Several states are now making efforts to have two thirds of a jury's opinion to constitute the verdict.

at wholesale.

When Jonah's fellow-passengers pitched him overboard they evidently regarded him as neither prophet nor loss.

An experienced boy says he regards hun-ger and the chastening rod as about the same thing. They both make a boy holler. The Grand Duke danced with hundreds

The income of young Bennett has been greatly exaggerated—that is, the report has. He has only \$85,000 per year, instead of

\$700,000. A girl at Weston, Missouri, ran away with a circus because her father wouldn't buy a gallon of mollasses and let her give a fashion-

able party. The newsboys of Philadelphia told the guardians of their "Home" either to "set up nobbier grub or close the caboose." The ca-

boose is closed. A Paris paper challenges the world to produce one authentic case where a person has ever been buried alive. It adds that such stories are all bosh.

The office of Mayor of Pittsburgh is worth \$20,000 per year. This accounts for the fact that five or six hundred men are always striving for the place.

There is a young man in the pension office in Washington whose ears are set so far back, that when he speaks he has to ask some one what he said.

"When I put my foot down, I'll have you

to understand," says Mrs. Nojoker, "that there's something there." On investigation it was found to be a No 11. Wisconsin clergyman claim and exercise the right to sit down and deliver their ser

sitting down to wash dishes. Massilon, O. is small, but has 121 widows and 200 marriagable girls.

If any young man is desirous of leaving a widow' Massillon is the place.

mons. It looks about as odd as a wome

A Janesville, Wis., clergyman delivered his sermon sitting down, the other Sunday, because a pet carbuncle forbade him standing up. His text was from Job.

Genteel boy—"My father is in the custom-house." Ragged boy—"And mine is in the station house." Genteel boy—"But my father can keep on stealing, and your's can t.

The name "Joe Bridger" is owned by six lifferent men in Bullet County, Kentucky. They distinguish them by saying. "The Jim per. He got him for \$89, and began who shot old Campbell," "the Jim who kir to dose him with a pint of gin and led Bill Gordon," etc.

Illinois has produced another beautiful blonde clergywoman in the person of Rev. Miss. Jennie Tracy, aged sweet sixteen, who is turning the hearts and heads of sinners in the town of Eling.

A promising young citizen of Clay County, who was thoughtless enough to throw the boot jack at his and insists upon stopping; neither mother-in-law, is deeply impressed with the idea that there is nothing so sharp and sudden in removing the hair from a man's head as a potatoe

Subscribe for the GAZETTE.

SOLID CHUNKS.

Fervor with wisdom is zeal; without it fanaticism.

Time is short, and if your cross be heavy remember you have not far to carry it. and global event curry

It is the water outside the ship that tosses it about; but it is the water that goes into the ship that

It is one of the beautiful compensations of this life that no one can sincerely try to help another without helping himself.

Out of unregulated will springs passion; out of passion gratified springs habit; out of habit unrestrain. ed springs necessity.

With spiritual culture as with material, it is the deep subsoiling and not the mere surface scratching that produces results.

Instead of asking what people will think or say if you do thus or so, let the inquiry be, what will be the thought or record which God will

The great question of life is the suffering we cause; and the utmost ingenuity of metaphysics cannot jus-tify the man who has pierced the heart that loves him.

A certain author well says that to be always intending to live a new life, but never find time to set about it, is as if a man should put off eating and drinking and sleeping from one day to another untill he is stars

ved and destroyed. The spirit of true religion breathes gentleness and affability; it is social, kind and cheerful; far removed from that gloomy, illiberal superstitien and bigotry which cloud the brow, sour the temper, deject the spirit, and impress moroseness on the man-

MISCELLANEOUS. Some time since a young minister in the West End wished to impress his Sabbath-school with the dignity of life by reference to the fact that men have souls while ordinary animals have none. Striking an attitude, he asked, "Now, children, what is the great difference between a monkey and a boy?" "The tail, the tail," came from all parts of the house, and the minister was satisfied.

Brompton, a conductor on the New Haven & Hartford Road, is a gentleman, but timid withal. The other day he received a telegram for one of his passengers, and, going to the car door, he timidly inquired: "Is there a Hone in this car?" For an instant there was no response, when s gentleman squealed out: "Why don't you use your boot leg?" This gave Brompton so much confidence that he bribed a brakeman to canvass the other cara.

A more or less worthy Scotch wife was remonstrated with by her minister for her habit of beating her husband. She explained that her busband's conduct was not all that it ought to be. The minister, recom. mending kindness and forgiveness, enjoined her no more to use her fists and nails, but to "heap coals of fire upon his head." "Weel, minister," replied the now enlightened wife. "since you say sea I'll try the coals, but I may tell ye that two or three kettles o'boiling water hae wroch nae improvement."

When the epizootic broke out in Chicago an expressman bought a horse badly afflicted with the distem. to dose him with a pint of gin and ginger twice a day. The stimulant kept up the spirits of the animal so that he worked all the time, and in less than a week earned \$192 Unfortunately, however, the horse had acquired a taste for intoxicating liquer, and cannot do without it now. He smells it as he passes by saloons, will he cat his food unless thus sea.

Advertise in your home paper, and show thusly to outsiders of what enterprising firms our community is composed.